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SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

— Titian Ramsay Peale died in Philadelphia, March 13. He was the last surviving son of Charles Willson Peale, the famous portrait painter of Revolutionary times. For the past ten years he has resided in Philadelphia. He was born in October, 1799. He was an enthusiastic naturalist, and was noted for his collections of moths and butterflies. He was one of the founders of the Philosophical Society of Washington, and was the sole survivor of Col. Long's celebrated "Expedition to the Rocky mountains," to which he was attached as assistant naturalist. He was also one of the naturalists with the U. S. exploring expedition of Commodore Wilkes.

— The Sea-side Laboratory, at Annisquam, Mass., will be open to students during the coming summer from July 1st to Sept. 1st, 1885. The instruction and work of the laboratory will be under the immediate care of Mr. B. H. Van Vleck, assistant in the laboratory of the Boston Society of Natural History. Applicants should address Professor A. Hyatt, curator of the Boston Society of Natural History.

— The Mexican government has appointed a commission for the scientific investigation of the natural products of the country. It includes a number of gentlemen who reside in different parts of the republic. The president of the commission is Dr. Fernando Ferrari of the city of Puebla.

—W. Curtis Taylor, 1328 Chestnut street, Philadelphia, has taken a series of composite photographs of the officers of the American Association for the Advancement of Science of 1883–4. They compare favorably with those of the National Academy of Sciences taken in 1883.

— Dr. F. Ritter von Stein, professor of zoölogy in the University of Prague, well known for his beautifully illustrated and elaborate works on the genital organs of insects and on the Infusoria, died in February last.

— Mr. E. C. Rye, of London, well known as a coleopterist, and the editor of the *Zoölogical Record*, died Feb. 7th, aged 52. He was a man of versatile talents, and a pleasant person to meet.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Biological Society of Washington, March 7. — Communications were made by Dr. C. A. White on the use of gutta-percha in making casts of fossils; by Dr. H. G. Beyer, U.S.N., report on intracellular digestion and its relations to pathology; by Mr. G. Brown Goode, remarks on the velocity of animal motion.

March 21.—Communications were made by Mr. Wm. H. Dall on the Marsupium of Milneria; by Prof. J. W. Chickering, Jr., exhibition of some botanical drawings and paintings; by Dr. Tarleton H. Bean, some features of collecting at Cozumel island, Yucatan; by Dr. J. A. Ryder, on the development of the mammary glands in the Cetacea; by Mr. Lester F. Ward, phyllotaxy of *Paulownia imperialis.*

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, March 2.—The following paper was read: Meteorological and hypsometrical notes in the islands of the Curaçao group, West Indies, by Dr. Alexis A. Julien.

March 23.—The following paper was read: Notes on building-stones (with illustrations), by Mr. Arthur H. Elliott.

March 30.—The following paper was read: On the trigonometric and topographic surveys of the United States (illustrated by lantern slides, and the exhibition of instruments actually employed in the field), by Prof. Wm. P. Trowbridge.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, March. 4.—Dr. E. G. Gardiner spoke of the development of the bill and epidermis in the chick.

March. 18.—Mr. C. E. Ridler read papers on some of the rare plants of Kingston, Mass., and on some ancient stone implements from the same locality.

AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, March 19.—Mr. Ernest Ingersoll delivered a lecture entitled, How the settlement of North America has affected its wild animals.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, March 11.—The following papers were presented: Some of the hills of Plymouth county, by C. E. Ridler; altitudes in Massachusetts, with a sketch of the Massachusetts trigonometrical survey conducted by Simeon Borden, 1830–1840, by E. G. Chamberlain; a week in the Pemigewasset wilderness, by Rev. H. P. Nichols (read by R. F. Curtis).

Special Meeting, March 20.—An ascent of Ben Nevis, illustrated with a few lantern views, was presented by A. E. Scott; a trip from the Connecticut lakes to the Rangeley lakes, was read by R. B. Lawrence.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, Jan. 27.—Miss A. M. Fielde gave the results of a series of experiments upon the power of regeneration of lost parts possessed by earthworms

(Lumbricus). Fifty-eight days after decapitation the worm had reproduced not only the brain, but the œsophageal collar and œsophageal ganglion. In one of the specimens exhibited, the lobes of the brain-mass were about one-half of the normal size; a second had progressed further, while in a third the brain and ganglion were normal. The only perceptible difference between the regenerated ganglion and the original brain was a somewhat paler color.

Feb. 17.—Miss Fielde stated that when twenty or more segments, constituting the posterior portion of a worm, were cut off behind the clitellum, regeneration never took place at the cut end, but by the insertion of new pieces. Mr. Meehan accounted for the sparse distribution of the cedar of Lebanon by attributing it to the solidity of the cones, which never open, though the seeds are winged, and therefore designed for wide distribution. He believed it probable that this close habit of the cones has only existed in comparatively recent times. The Indian species is so closely related that it probably sprang from the same ancestral stock. The only young trees which grow in a state of nature are produced from cones which rot in rock-crevices or are broken by accident. Professor Heilprin read a paper upon disputed points in geology and palæontology, with special reference to the greater adaptability of the lower forms of life to changed surroundings, and their consequent persistence in later geological deposits, as compared with the rapid extinction of higher types. Arguments were adduced in favor of homoplassy in evolution or the origin of the same generic or even specific forms by distinct lines of ancestors, and the reappearance of extinct genera and species in subsequent geological epochs.

Feb. 26.—Mr. Potts described a new Hydrozoan from Tacony creek. This creature has a cylindrical body, surrounded at its free extremity by sixty or seventy papillæ, but without tentacles. Very long lasso-threads are present. The usual length of the creature is about $\frac{1}{60}$ of an inch. The ectoderm is an almost homogeneous hyaline substance filled with large cells. It was thought that a clear central space had been seen, and that a faint channel ending in a mouth could be traced. This appears to be the most primitive form of Hydrozoan yet described, its power of motion is very slight, and how it can capture prey without tentacles is a mystery. Mr. Potts suggested that it might be the larval state of a more developed form, as it had not changed, but had budded from the base. Professor Sharp argued in favor of the view that this organism, in common with other fresh-water organisms, has degenerated from a somewhat higher type. Mr. Potts stated that he had received from Pictou Lake, Nova Scotia, specimens of the statoblasts of a new species of sponge. Specimens collected just before Christmas indicated that it was an evergreen species.